

REMARKS

First, Applicants thank the Examiner for discussing the present case with Applicants' representatives. *See enclosed Statement of Substance of Interview.*

Claims 1-27 and 29-56 are all the claims pending in the present application. Claims 28 is withdrawn. Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 25 and 41 contain allowable subject matter. Claims 25 and 41 are amended as indicated herein, and Applicants believe that the claims 25 and 41 should be allowed. Claims 1-24, 26, 27, 29-40 and 42-56 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Curry et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,233,234).

During the Examiner Interview, the Examiner indicated that the features mentioned in the Advisory Action dated January 4, 2008, might render the claimed invention patentably distinguishable over Curry. Said features have been incorporated into independent claims 1 and 6, as indicated herein. Accordingly, Applicants submit that independent claims 1 and 6, and the claims that depend therefrom, either directly or indirectly, are patentably distinguishable over Curry.

Applicants submit that independent claims 29, 44 and 48 are patentable at least based on reasons set forth in the previously filed Response.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

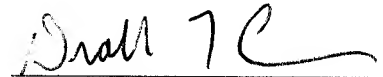
Respectfully submitted,

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